

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2016

A Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Present: Jennifer Maccarone, Chair; Commissioner Dean Dugas, Vice-Chair; Commissioners Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Paolo Galati, Vicky Kalliotzakis, Peter MacLaurin, Anne McMullon, Ailsa Pehi and Parent Commissioners Sergio Di Marco and Angela Martorana; and Paul Lamoureux, Director General.

Also present were: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Richard Blondin, Director of Financial Resources; Jérôme Dionne, Director of Material Resources; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Schools & Interim Director of School Organization & Transportation; Silvia Patella, Interim Director of Complementary Services; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Guests: Amyot Gélinas, S.E.N.C.R.L. (Geneviève Daoust, Bernard Forget and Christian Gélinas)

Absent: Commissioner Emilio Migliozi and Parent Commissioner Pamala Cipton.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-160126-CA-0019

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2016109/26-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

CC-161026-CA-0020

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2016-09-28 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR & DG**4.1 Chair Report:**

The Chair presented her monthly report highlighting:

- attendance at recent graduations with appreciation extended to various Commissioners who represented the Council at others;
- the arrival of the students from Thailand for a one-month educational visit;
- the Laval *Région mobilisée pour la réussite des élèves* for at risk communities in Laval;
- the successful 1st Annual St-Jude Blood Drive. McCaig Elementary School will also be hosting one shortly;
- various media interviews;
- the Language Rights Support Program which works to support minority languages in Canada;
- Important steps have been taken in this regard, since the proposal concerning the obligation to obtain the approval of two thirds of the commissioners to overturn a recommendation from the Resource Allocation Committee has been removed to allow for more flexibility;
- encouraged everyone to sign the on-line petition concerning school taxation.

4.2 *Director General's Report:*

The Director General drew attention to his monthly report and commented on:

- the *Région mobilisée pour la réussite des élèves* given that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (the Board) promotes student success. The Board did not present at this event but will have an opportunity to do so at a later date;
- there is a need to promote the successes of this Board given that we are ranked 4th in the province but there is some work to be done in the Laurentides and Lanaudière regions;
- the September 30 official enrollment shows that for 2016-2017 there are 12,919 students or 202 fewer students than in 2015-2016. The official enrollment also falls short of the projections of Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (the Ministère) by 52 students;
- there are 360 regular students that live on the territory of the Board but attend another English school board via an Interboard Agreement. This number does not include those who attend private or French school;
- the Board needs to focus on early entry programs, e.g. 4-year old kindergarten, to increase enrollment;
- MESAs will be completed by the end of October;
- the completion of the 2015-2016 Annual Report for 2016-12-31 is pending because the data required has not yet been received from the Ministère. The concerns surrounding the late receipt of data will be addressed with the Ministère;
- congratulations were extended to the Director of Financial Resources and his team for the financial audit as it requires a lot of work to collect the necessary data throughout the year to complete the 2 required reports for March 31 and June 30;
- a budget working committee has been established that includes the Directors of Financial and Human Resources as well as the Director General. The purpose of this committee is to align the 2017-2018 budget in areas such as allocations, the teachers and Complementary Services;
- the Board hopes that the Ministère will be granting new 4-year old Kindergarten programs given that socio-economic status of some of the schools within this Board are ranked at 8 and 9 on the socio-economic scale;
- some allocations will be given directly to the schools by the Ministère in accordance with the school's MESA;
- an FAQ guide is being created for all of the grants/allocations the Board receives and how they can and cannot be used;

- it is good that there is some decentralization but with that comes responsibility and accountability. The role of the Board will be to support the Principals.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General noted that there will be funds for Adult Education for alphabetisation and the improvement of literacy skills so that adults can be encouraged to return to school.

Commissioner Paolo Galati left the meeting.

TIME: 20:01 hours

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 *Commissioners Remuneration 2016-2017:*

The Chair explained that the Commissioners remuneration for 2016-2017 was discussed at length at the 2016-10-19 meeting of the Corporate Committee.

CC-161026-CA-0021

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-160928-CA-0006 regarding the proposed Commissioners remuneration for 2016-2017;

WHEREAS said resolution also stated that the detailed allocation of the remuneration would be recommended by the Corporate Committee;

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners approve the distribution of the 2016-2017 allocated decree amount in remuneration per Commissioner, based on the amounts approved for 2015-2016 as per resolution #CC-151104-CA-0028.

AND THAT the remuneration of Commissioners is from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Carried unanimously

5.2 *Laval Soccer Complex:*

The Director General provided an update on the Laval Soccer Complex noting:

- the project is still in the preliminary stage with discussions centered on which body will oversee the management of the complex;
- there are rules when a school board sells, alienates or negotiates gré-à-gré on a piece of property as there is a first right of refusal clause;
- have to ensure:
 - that should a party pull out of the project the Board has first right of refusal. This will not occur given that there is a large investor for this project who would want to ensure that its assets are protected;
 - that things do not move too quickly;
 - legal opinions are sought;
 - that the rules and regulations are being followed so that the Board is protected;
- an application for financing will have to be submitted to the Ministre but everything needs to be in order before this step is taken so the Board can be one of the first to apply. There is some concern that there will be municipalities applying for monies for similar projects.

Commissioner Paolo Galati returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:05 hours

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:**6.1 Financial Resources****6.1.1 Audit 2015-2016:**

The Chair welcomed the auditing firm of Amyot Gélinas to the meeting.

Bernard Forget, Auditor, proceeded to review the audited financial statement for 2015-2016 highlighting the following:

- the applicable laws concerning the audit;
- the opinion of Amyot Gélinas based on the audit;
- the decrease in the accumulated deficit;
- the deficiencies found during the audit;
- no fraud was found;
- IEPs as an added component of the audit process;
- school boards contract debt and the Ministère finances the repayment of that debt;
- the cooperation of the employees in Financial Resources.

The Chair thanked the auditors for the review of the audited financial statement.

6.1.2 2015-2016 Financial Statement:

The Director of Financial Resources presented a PowerPoint overview of the 2015-2016 financial statement noting that the enrollment numbers play a significant role in the financing process so the loss of a student does have an impact. He continued noting that the Board ended 2015-2016 with a deficit of 74,447\$ compared to a deficit in 2014-2015 of 404,119\$.

The Chair noted that the attrition of students is concentrated in the Laval region.

CC-161026-FR-0022

WHEREAS the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) requires a school board to submit annual financial statements;

WHEREAS the firm Amyot Gélinas s.e.n.c.r.l., has completed the audit of the records and statements of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the period ending 2016-06-30;

WHEREAS in accordance with section 286 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) a public notice was given on 2016-07-13;

WHEREAS the 2015-2016 Financial Statements, prepared according to the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, show the following:

Beginning Accumulated Surplus:	\$ 6,959,740
<u>Current Year:</u>	
Revenues:	\$ 155,111,190
Expenses:	<u>\$ 155,185,637</u>
Total Current Year Surplus:	(\$ 74,447)
Ending Accumulated Surplus:	\$ 6,885,293

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the 2015-2016 audited Financial Statements of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the period ending 2016-06-30 be received by the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as submitted by the Director General.

Carried unanimously

6.1.3 Statement of Unpaid Taxes:

In response to questions, the Director of Financial Resources noted:

- the amount of unpaid taxes to date is comparable to 2015;
- the Board billed \$1,800,000 more in taxes for 2016-2017;
- close to 100% of school taxes have been collected and all avenues are taken to recover unpaid taxes as the law does not allow them to be written off;
- the collection of taxes has improved with the option of two installments.

CC-161026-FR-0023

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, in accordance with sections 339 et 340 of the Education Act, the statement prepared by the Director of Financial Resources for the Director General for school taxes outstanding as of October 19th, 2016 in the amount of 13,148,558 \$.

Carried unanimously

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.2.1 Policy Rules of Order for Council – Amendment:

The Chair noted that the changes to the rules of order for Council and Executive are to reflect the currently reality.

CC-161026-CA-0024

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolutions #000126-CA-0127 and CC-090623-CA-0150, approving and amending, respectively, policy #2000-CA-04: Rules of Order & Procedure for the meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS it has become necessary to amend this policy in order to reflect the current reality of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the amendments to policy #2000-CA-04: Rules of Order & Procedure for the meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

6.2.2 Policy Rules of Order for Executive Committee – Amendment:

In response to questions, the Secretary General noted that the Executive Committee meeting could be extended for a short period of time or adjourned to another date and time in order to complete the agenda.

CC-161026-CA-0025

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolutions #CC-090325-CA-0108 and CC-090623-CA-0151, approving and amending, respectively, policy #2000-CA-16: Rules of Order & Procedure for the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS it has become necessary to amend this policy in order to reflect the current reality of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the amendments to policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order & Procedure for the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

6.3 School Organization & Transportation

6.3.1 Enrollment Criteria - Amendment:

The Director of Schools & Interim Director of School Organization & Transportation presented and reviewed the amendments to the Enrollment Criteria noting the changes to various sections concerning registration, out-of-zone and interboard agreements to reflect the Board's current reality.

CC-161026-TS-0026

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) states that the school board must adopt enrollment criteria;

WHEREAS section 193 (6) of the Education Act requires that the Parents' Committee be consulted on the enrollment criteria;

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation the amendments to policy #2014-TS-04: *Enrollment Criteria*.

AND THAT this proposed Enrollment Criteria be subject to a 40-day consultation with the Parents Committee beginning on 2016-10-27 and ending on 2016-12-05.

Carried unanimously

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi provided an update on the activities of the Foundation noting that the planning of the January Gala is underway and that the event will be held on 2017-01-26 at the Embassy Plaza in Laval with entertainment provided by The Ultimate Showband. The invitations will be going out next week.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report:

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco provided an update on the first meeting of 2016-2017 noting:

- elections were held and the following were elected:
 - Chair – Carla Tosti, Parent Committee Delegate for Rosemere High School
 - Vice-Chair – Charbel Mourad, Parent Committee Delegate for Hillcrest Academy
 - Elementary Parent Commissioner – Sergio Di Marco Parent Committee Delegate for Terry Fox Elementary School;
 - Secondary Parent Commissioner – Bob Pellerin Parent Committee Delegate for Joliette High School;
- the Parent Committee adopted the following;
 - a unanimous decision was taken to oppose Bill 105;
 - that the government pursue equitable school taxation rates among the school boards province wide. The committee also asked its delegates to bring this resolution to their respective Governing Boards so that they too can adopt a similar resolution;
- the committee acknowledged the contribution over the past several years of Angela Martorana in her role as a member of Governing Boards, as Parent Committee delegate and as Parent Commissioner.

The Chair extended best wishes and thanked Ms. Martorana for her service to the Board noting that it is a loss for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board community.

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana thanked everyone for their support and kind words noting that throughout her 14-year journey as a member of various committees and governing boards of the school board she has been part of many difficult conversations and decisions and was always able to take something positive with her from the experience. She congratulated Bob Pellerin on being named to the position of Secondary Parent Commissioner and wished him well in his new role.

The Chair also thanked and extended best wishes to Pamala Cripton who has served the past two years as the school board's first Special Needs Parent Commissioner. The Council learned a lot from Ms. Cripton from the information brought to the table on special needs students. She has also given up the position of Chair of SEAC and is to be congratulated for her contributions to that committee.

7.3 Report of QESBA:

The Chair advised the Council that any information concerning the activities of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) can be found in the Monday Message and other communications provided by the association.

7.4 Student Ombudsman Annual Report 2015-2016:

The Secretary General advised that, by law, the Annual Report of the Student Ombudsman must be provided to the Council.

7.5 *Bill 62:*

The Chair advised the Council that while the QESBA is respectful of Bill 62: *An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies*, it goes against the constitutional right of freedom of religion. The position of QESBA is that decisions concerning religion should reside in the school boards.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

Lisa Chartier, Chair of the Laval Senior Academy Governing Board, advised the Council that while Angela Martorana was in the role of Parent Commissioner parents were provided with a real understanding of the position and that she made an impact in her role with the Laval community by listening and bringing the community's concerns to the attention of the Council.

Parent Commissioner Martorana thanked Ms. Chartier for her kind words and went on to thank Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco for his support over the past few years in his role as Elementary Parent Commissioner.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chair drew the council's attention to the items contained in the package.

10.0 VARIA:

There was no varia.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:05 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2016-11-23